

PATENT CLAIMS

1. Joint socket for a hip endoprosthesis, having a socket shell (18) implantable in the pelvic bone (10) and a socket insert (20) for providing a bearing for the joint head (16), a spherical outer surface (32) of the socket insert (20) sitting in an accommodating space (24) of the socket shell (18),  
characterised in that the outer surface (32) of the socket insert (20) contacts the inner surface (28) of the accommodating space (24) in a line of contact (34) which is concentric with respect to the axis of rotation (26) of the accommodating space (24); in that the inner surface (28) of the accommodating space (24) in the region of that line of contact (34) narrows towards the pole of the accommodating space (24) in such a manner that the radius of curvature in that region is always greater than the spherical radius of the outer surface (32) of the socket insert (20); and in that the socket insert (20) is arranged to be clamped in self-retaining manner in the accommodating space (24).
2. Joint socket according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the inner surface (28) of the accommodating space (24) is of conical shape (infinite radius of curvature) in the region of the line of contact (34).
3. Joint socket according to claim 2,  
characterised in that the cone angle of the conically narrowing inner surface (28) of the accommodating space (24) is the self-retaining angle of the material pairing of socket shell (18) and socket insert (20).
4. Joint socket according to claim 3,  
characterised in that the cone angle of the conical inner surface (28) is between about 4° and 10°.